



Urban District of Clevedon.

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# R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1911.

Population of the District (Census, 1911) .. .. .	6,111
Area in Statute Acres .. .. .	3,027
Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population .. .. .	15.87
Death-rate per 1,000 of Population .. .. .	14.34
Zymotic Death-rate .. .. .	0.3
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births .. .. .	72.26

# REPORT.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District of Clevedon.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMAN,—

I have the honour to present my Report of the Health and Sanitary condition of this District for the year 1911.

## A. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

(1). *Physical Features and General Character.*—Clevedon is a Health Resort and Residential Town, situated on the Southern shore of the Bristol Channel or “Severn Sea.” The residential part of the town lies from 100 to 200 feet above the sea level, and is sheltered from the N.E. by Dial Hill, 296 feet, and from the E. by Court Hill, 300 feet above ordnance datum. The soil is sandy over rocks of carboniferous limestone. The climate is mild and equable, with a comparatively large amount of sunshine and freedom from fog and thunderstorms.

(2). *The Social Conditions.*—The Resident Population consists largely of retired persons of mature age and invalids, besides several large Boarding Schools ; consequently the Birth-Rate is low, and the Death-Rate is somewhat higher than that among an average population living under similar conditions.

The industrial population consists of the usual Artisans, Gardeners and workers in the Boot Factory, Printing Works, and Steam Laundry. Clevedon is included within the Poor-law District of Long Ashton, with a Workhouse at Flax Bourton. There is a Cottage Hospital with eight beds and a Provident Dispensary.

## B. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

AND

## C. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

*Water Supply.*—The Water Supply of the whole district, except to a few outlying cottages, is by Water Company, from well 270 feet deep in limestone rock, situated nearly a mile from the town, with reservoirs on Dial Hill, is ample, continuous, and free from possibilities of contamination. The water is of excellent quality, and has been periodically examined for the Council by the Clinical Research Association, the latest report being as follows:—

Sample of Water analysed by the Clinical Research Association.

### ANALYSIS.

	Grains per Gall.	Parts per 100,000.
Total Solids (dried at 120° C.) .. ..	29.12	41.60
Combined Chlorine .. ..	1.70	2.43
Expressed as Na. Cl. .. ..	2.8	4.00
Nitrogen as Nitrates .. ..	0.30	0.43
Nitrites .. ..	Nil.	Nil.
Saline Ammonia .. ..	Nil.	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia .. ..	0.0010	0.0014
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C. ..	0.006	0.009
Lead or Copper .. ..	Nil.	Nil.
Temporary Hardness .. ..	20.6	
Permanent Hardness .. ..	2° I	
Total Hardness .. ..	22° 7	

Judged by Chemical Analysis this sample is of satisfactory organic purity.

Signed, C. H. WELLS,

Secretary of the Association.



*Rivers and Streams.*—The three Commission Rivers under the control of the Council have been periodically cleansed. No complaints have been received from the Viewers.

*Drainage and Sewerage* arrangements are sufficient. The sewers are flushed twice weekly, and discharge by two outlets into the sea. The drains of all new buildings are tested before being passed. Most houses have water closets, those inside with flushing tanks, those outside being generally hand flushed. The tar-paving of the roads has materially improved the flushing by storm water. During the dry weather the traps were filled from water carts.

*Scavenging.*—The removal of house refuse is done once a week by contract, and tipped at a distance from the town. There has been a marked improvement in the cleanliness and appearance of the streets since the placing of receptacles in the road for collection has been prohibited.

*Sanitary Inspection of the District by the Town Surveyor:—*

Renewals and Repairs to Water Closets	..	..	17
Soil Pipes and Drains Ventilated	..	..	10
„ „ „ Relaid	..	..	23
„ „ „ Cleared	..	..	3
„ „ „ Trapped	..	..	34
„ „ „ Inspection Chambers Built	..	..	27
Sewers Partially Relaid	..	..	3
Cesspits Closed	..	..	2
New Baths Fixed	..	..	2
Company's Water laid on to Cottage	..	..	1

All Sanitary alterations and new work has been smoke or water tested.

General Nuisances abated	..	..	49
House Refuse complaints attended to	..	..	24
Road Scavenging notices attended to	..	..	6
Notices to cleanse, &c., Workshops	..	..	3
Overcrowding complaint attended to	..	..	1
Slaughter-house—Notices to Cleanse	..	..	5
Bakehouses, ditto	..	..	4
Regularly Inspected { Workrooms, ditto	..	..	4
Common Lodging Houses, ditto	..	..	3
Dairies and Cowsheds, ditto	..	..	7
Drinking Ponds filled in	..	..	2
Drinking Ponds emptied and cleaned	..	..	5
Warning as to Pig-killing on Farm Premises	..	..	1

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

*Common Lodging Houses.*—Two in the district, regularly inspected, well kept, and in satisfactory sanitary condition.

*Public Slaughter House.*—Efforts have been made to improve the slaughter house as regards ventilation, paving, and provision of a store room. Structural alterations to provide a separate cooling room, and a more detached lairage cannot well be carried out on the present site. It has been regularly inspected and at times of slaughtering. There are no private slaughter houses within the district.

*Schools.*—The Public Elementary Schools are in good condition, with public water supply. Two children were excluded from school in January for measles, and no schools have been closed on account of infectious disease. The *Medical Inspection of School Children* is carried out by the County Authority.

### FOOD.

(a). *Milk Supply* is of excellent character, is almost entirely produced within the district, and the condition of the Dairies, Milk-shops, and Utensils is satisfactory. There are twenty farms and nine milk-shops in the district which have been frequently inspected and seven notices served to clean and white-lime. There is still some difficulty in ensuring frequent removal of manure from the vicinity of the cow-sheds, and the paving of the cow yards is in many instances very unsatisfactory. Samples of milk from all dairies were analysed by the County Analyst and found satisfactory.

(b). *Other Foods.*—Meat at the public slaughter house, that for sale at shops, and at the Public Market, is inspected frequently ; the sanitary condition and cleanliness of the premises is good (five notices served) ; and no carcasses, or parts, have been condemned and no tuberculosis discovered. Bakehouses, of which there are thirteen in the district, are kept in excellent condition, have good water supply and efficient sanitary arrangements, and none are underground. Four notices served to cleanse. Food of all kinds, especially meat, when *exposed* for sale or in transit, ought to be protected from dust and contamination, and I think if the attention of the public and the tradesmen is drawn to this necessity it will be to the general advantage.

(c). *Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts.*—The provisions of these Acts are usually carried out by the police authorities ; no necessity has arisen for the local authority to take action.



*Housing.*—The housing accommodation for artizans and labourers is adequate and of good quality, little, if any, over-crowding exists, and with few exceptions the surroundings as regards open space are excellent. Plans for new houses are submitted for approval, are inspected during erection, and when completed and the drains tested.

*Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.*—The Council put the regulations under this Act into active operation at the end of the year. The town has been divided into districts, and the systematic inspection is now proceeding.

*Workshops, Workplaces, &c.*—The Boot Factory and the Steam Laundry are kept in good condition as regards cleanliness, ventilation, and sanitary arrangements. Three notices of occupation of workshops were received and the premises inspected and approved.

No lists of out-workers were received during the year.

*The Isolation Hospital* provided by the Council, situated on the Strode Road, about a mile from the town, and at a distance from any other buildings, consists of a two-storied stone building, containing two wards of five beds each, with bathroom, kitchen, &c., and accommodation for nurses. When unoccupied it is kept in readiness by a caretaker who lives in a neighbouring cottage, a trained nurse or nurses being engaged when any patient is admitted. There is also room in the old cottage buildings for four patients. The accommodation provided has, so far, proved ample. Four cases of scarlet fever have been admitted during the year. All inside walls, doors, &c., have been painted and ceilings coloured, a new shed has been erected to receive infected clothing and another to receive clothes after disinfection.

\* *Disinfection* of rooms is carried out by Formalin Vapour or spraying; and of clothing, &c., in Steam Disinfector. This has been done after cases of consumption and cancer in addition to that in connection with the scarlet fever and diphtheria cases mentioned.

Articles disinfected in Steam Disinfector:—

Beds and Mattresses	..	..	..	..	..	21
Bolsters and Pillows	..	..	..	..	..	47
General Bedding	..	..	..	..	..	125
Wearing Apparel	..	..	..	..	..	132
Carpets and Rugs	..	..	..	..	..	18
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	97
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Total	..	..	..	..	..	440

*Local Acts.*—(1). Clevedon Local Board Act, 1891.

*Acts adopted by the Council.*—(1). The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.

(2). The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

(3). The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts II. and III.

(4). The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Part II., certain sections of Part III. and Parts IV., V., VI., and X.

#### D. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notifications received was eleven, as follows.—

Diphtheria .. .. .	2 cases
Erysipelas .. .. .	4 cases
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	5 cases
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Total .. .. .	11

Four of the five cases of scarlet fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The first case of diphtheria was notified on January 23rd, a child from Weston-super-Mare, staying with relatives; the diagnosis was confirmed by report on specimen sent to the County Laboratory. Antitoxin was supplied by the local authority under the Antitoxin Order. The second case was notified on September 13th, and occurred in an adult; no cause of infection was found and no other case resulted.

The four cases of Erysipelas were of the ordinary facial type.

The first case of scarlet fever, notified on June 20th, occurred in a lodging-house, being probably infected by a convalescent from Bristol. Removed to the Isolation Hospital. The second was a puerperal case on June 26th, unconnected with the former, unfit for removal. The district nurse in attendance was quarantined, and the County Inspector of Midwives notified. The third, a child of the last case, notified July 22nd, and removed to the Isolation Hospital. The fourth was a nurse at the Cottage Hospital, who had just returned from a holiday, notified August 23rd. She infected the fifth case, a child patient. Both were removed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfection and quarantine carried out.



Two cases of measles were reported in January by the school authorities, were excluded from school for three weeks, no further outbreak resulting.

E. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified under the Tuberculosis in Hospitals Regulations. One from the local Provident Dispensary, a second from the Dispensary, afterwards re-notified from St. Raphael's Home, Torquay, and one from the Winsley Sanatorium (a transfer). No special action was required in either case. No case was notified under the Regulations of 1908 (pauper cases). No sanatorium accommodation is provided locally.

F. The general health of the district during the year was good and does not call for special remark.

G. The administration of the Midwives Act is under the County Authority. The Notification of Births Act has not been adopted.

H. VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

*Births in 1911.*—The total births registered in the year were 97 (52 boys and 45 girls), of these two were illegitimate. The birth-rate per 1,000 of population equals 15.87; that for England and Wales for 1911 being 24.4.

*Mortality in 1911.*—The total deaths in the district was 84, or at the rate of 13.74 per 1,000, which is about the average for the past ten years. Subtracting two of non-residents registered in the district and adding seven of residents not registered in the district, we get a total of 89 deaths belonging to the district, with a nett death-rate of 14.54; that for England and Wales being 14.6. Of these 89 deaths 34 were males and 55 females. I have remarked on the birth and death rates on a previous page.

*Ages at Death.*—These were as follows:—

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	7
1 and under 2 years	..	..	..	..	0
2 and under 5 years	..	..	..	..	0
5 and under 15 years	..	..	..	..	1
15 and under 25 years	..	..	..	..	2
25 and under 45 years	..	..	..	..	8
45 and under 65 years	..	..	..	..	18
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	53
Total					89

Of these 14 were over 80 years of age, one being 91.

*Causes of Death.*—There were two deaths among the “seven principal zymotic diseases”—small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, “fever” (typhus, simple continued, and enteric), and diarrhœa—namely, two from diarrhœa. This gives a zymotic death-rate of 0.3. These two deaths from diarrhœa occurred in infants during the hot and dry summer, when this complaint is especially liable to occur. The other chief diseases which caused death were :—

Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	..	6
Other Tuberculous Disease	..	..	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	..	..	13
Bronchitis	..	..	9
Pneumonia	..	..	1
Nephritis and Bright’s Disease	..	..	7
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	..	..	4
Accidents	..	..	2

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths occurring under one year of age was seven, the rate per 1,000 births being 72.26. The average for the past five years is nine, with an average rate of 89.31. This, as it should be, in a district with favourable climatic and industrial conditions, is decidedly low, the rate for England and Wales being 130.

Four Tables accompany this Report dealing with the sickness and mortality of the district.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER J. HILL, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S.,

*Medical Officer of Health*

TABLE I. CLEVEDON URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District .		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District. 8	Of Residents not registered in the District. 9	Under One Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Num'r	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7			10	11	12	13
1906	6157	118		19.16	89	14.45	0	0	14	118.64	89	14.45
1907	6157	108		17.54	86	13.96	1	1	11	101.85	86	13.96
1908	6157	106		17.21	89	14.45	2	1	9	84.9	88	14.29
1909	6326	101		15.96	80	12.64	2	1	9	89.1	79	12.48
1910	6326	96		15.17	63	9.95	5	3	5	52.08	61	9.64
1911	6111	97	97	15.87	84	13.74	2	7	7	72.26	89	14.54

Area of district in acres (exclusive of area covered by water). } 3,027

Total population at all ages ... 6,111  
 Number of inhabited houses ... 1,230  
 Average number of persons per house ... 4.96

At Census of 1911.



TABLE II.  
CLEVEDON URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases removed to Hospital.
		At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox ... ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cholera ... ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)...	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	
Erysipelas ... ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	
Scarlet fever ... ..	5	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	4	
Typhus fever ... ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Enteric fever ... ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Relapsing fever ... ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Continued fever ... ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Puerperal fever ... ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Plague ... ..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Phthisis {	Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	3	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	
	Others .. ..									
Totals ... ..	14			4	1	4	5		4	

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Clevedon Isolation Hospital, within district, on Strode Road, provided by Clevedon Urban District Council. Total available beds, 14. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

TABLE III.  
CLEVEDON URBAN DISTRICT

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1911.

[illegible]

## TABLE IV.

CLEVELAND URBAN DISTRICT.

## INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1911.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

[illegible]







CLITHEROE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my report for 1911.

The Rural District of Clitheroe may be described as decidedly picturesque, as it is much diversified in character, rugged and irregular in feature with a variety of scenery and colour. There are steep hills with wooded slopes and there are dales and valleys in which flow streams and rivers of varying size, the banks of which are often clothed with trees and shrubs of many and varied kinds. Sometimes the banks have wide stretches of rolling and undulating meadow land which affords excellent pasture for herds of cattle or for producing crops of hay. Scattered throughout the district there are large tracts of moorland which affords suitable pasturage for sheep. There are numerous streams and three rivers of good size which serve to drain the district of superfluous water, yet in spite of such



excellent natural drainage facilities, much land becomes very sloppy and even water-logged in places. The rivers and streams are for the most part rapid coursing, running over stony or rocky beds. There are very few sluggish streams and the only one of any size is the River Loud, this of course is due to the fact that there is so little level or flat land in the district. The River Ribble and Hodder are clear, limpid waters, abounding in fish, but the Calder is far from clean and it is charged with many impurities which mainly come from towns and villages higher up its course and beyond the confines of the district. The Hodder and Ribble flowing from northwards and bounding the township of Great Mytton in the West Riding of Yorkshire and ultimately flowing into each other have the effect of splitting the Clitheroe Rural District into two parts to the no small disadvantage of those who have to travel over its whole area, but at the same time adds much to the amenity and beauty of the district.

There is much clay land throughout the district, and this no doubt is the cause of a great deal of coldness and damp. There is also in places free open gravelly soil and limestone is also found more or less extensively. The abundance of lime is no doubt the source from which so much of our hard water comes and which proves so great an annoyance to numerous housewives in the community.

There is little or no cultivated land in the district except it may be around Stonyhurst, the whole extent of country being given over to grass for grazing purposes and for cropping hay. This, though very pleasant and restful to the eye is somewhat monotonous and apt to become tedious. The principal products of the district are milk, butter and cheese and of course beef and mutton. Much of the milk is sent off by rail for consumption in the large town and cities round about, and so too, is the butter and cheese.

There are a few factories and workshops which employ quite a large proportion of the population who for the most part live under most favourable conditions as regards environment, that is as compared with factory employees in large towns and other industrial centres. There is certainly no crowding of their houses together and they have easy access to fields, hill sides and river banks where they can fill their lungs with pure air and stroll about in a smokeless atmosphere.

The people are for the most part in comfortable circumstances, are able to clothe and feed themselves well and their housing accommodation is on the whole, very satisfactory. There are comparatively few very poor in the district and the amount of poor-law relief cannot be great. There is, generally speaking, a sufficiency of work and there need be but few among the ranks of unemployed.

## VACCINATION.

I regret to say that vaccination is gradually but surely declining and I think I am safe in stating that very little more than one-half of the children who survive are now subjected to this very safe and highly protective operation against small-pox. Exemption certificates are being obtained wholesale, merely because mothers object to having their babies "punished," as they term it and not in most cases on grounds of conscience at all. The great majority of the mothers and fathers of the present generation know nothing about small-pox, having had no experience of it in any shape or form and consequently look upon it as a purely problematical matter with which they have little or no concern and which it is extremely unlikely they will ever see. There can be but comparatively few remaining who entertain any fear and loathing of the horrible disease which in the past has cut off so many helpless victims and has caused so much distress by decimating whole families.

The result of the neglect of this useful and beneficent measure for protection from and prevention of this malignant disease is that an extensive fertile and virgin soil is rapidly being prepared for the invasion of small-pox, and I very much fear that sooner or later a fearful and devastating Nemesis awaits some future generation basking in the sunshine of a fancied but false security.

As a result of experience in India in former years, I am convinced that no measures, even the most perfect of sanitation and isolation are sufficient to prevent the spread of the awful disease if once it gets a grip of any unvaccinated community.

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

A very large part of the district is well supplied with water which, of course, varies in quality in different places but is on the whole good though for the most part very hard, and especially so in Whalley.

Some places are still very badly off but there is every reason to hope that the defect is in a fair way to be remedied in a few of the more important and populous places in process of time.

It is hoped that the water supply works with regard to Chipping may at least be started before the year is out.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that a "good supply of excellent water has been laid on to Worston Farm, Worston." He also reports that "a new water main is being built to supply the school-house at Walker Fold and Wallbanks Farm in Chaigley."



The following villages have a constant supply :

Chatburn	Downham	Worston
Pendleton	Mearley	Barrow
Whalley	Hurst Green	Bailey
Stonyhurst	Woodfields	Little Mytton.

Chaigley is supplied in part but three farms have a very scanty supply.

Thornley is supplied satisfactorily by Lord Derby.

Leagram has a partial supply from Leagram Hall, but some farms have only a scanty supply.

Little Bowland is reported to have a good supply from springs, but Higher Greystonelea Farm is not well off for water.

Twiston has a very scanty supply in dry weather.

Chipping. Supply derived from wells which furnish a poor supply in dry seasons.

Hesketh Lane. This place is very badly off for water. A supply can be obtained from the pump at the Inn, but it is quite unfit for domestic use.

Wiswell. This village derives its supply from troughs at the road side to which a plentiful supply comes by drainage from the hill. The water is open in its course and at the collecting point to any form of contamination.

The scheme to which I referred at some length in my Report for 1909 for the purpose of furnishing a constant supply to the village is still in abeyance. I think it is highly desirable that measures should be taken without any undue delay to find a suitable water supply for this place.

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

At Chatburn 40 new houses have been fitted with w.c.'s, and connected with the main sewer. At Bridge Road 8 privies have been reconstructed and put upon the F.W.C. system.

In Chipping 2 new closets have been built at the back of certain houses in Talbot Street and put upon the pail system. Faulty house drains have also been taken up and relaid with sanitary pipes and trapped gullies and grates have been fitted to receive slop water. At Church Rake Cottages 3 new closets have been built and put upon the pail system. New drains have been laid with sanitary pipes and fitted with trapped gullies and grates to carry slop water from the same houses.

Hurst Green. In this village 6 privies have been reconstructed and put upon the pail system. At the Eagle and Child Hotel faulty house drains have been taken up and relaid with sanitary pipes.

## PRIVIES AND PRIVY MIDDENS.

In the past, from time to time in Quarterly and Annual Reports I have denounced the privy and the open privy midden in no unmeasured terms. The hoary antiquity of the institution, however, seems to have conferred upon it some claims to veneration, as it is still found in large numbers throughout the district. That it has been tolerated so long is matter for wonder and we can only suppose that long use and custom has so blunted the feelings of the people that they have failed to realise what a noisome pestilence it is. It has no redeeming features of any kind to offer in excuse for its maintenance and continued existence. Why people should have ever thought of hoarding up excremental filth for periods extending over weeks and months and in some instances even for years in a more or less impervious hole in the ground in the near vicinity

of their dwellings is beyond comprehension, as by doing so there was nothing to gain and very much to lose. For long it has been recognised to be an abominable and evil-smelling nuisance, alike obnoxious to every sense of decency and dangerous to health.

The privy continues to exist in defiance of one of Nature's most beneficent laws which is that all refuse matter should be restored as speedily as possible to our mother earth where it will be dealt with in the most efficient and satisfactory manner possible and ultimately give back a rich dividend.

The privy is dangerous to health in many ways but the one to which I wish especially to call attention at the present time is, that it affords an excellent breeding ground for flies and these insects are among the most dangerous known to man.

The common housefly is not looked upon by the average person as anything more than a nuisance and annoyance in various ways to one's comfort. I am sure by far the great majority of people quite fail to recognise that the fly is capable of being a very great and serious danger, and more especially so if there are collections of filth in the near neighbourhood of the dwelling place. Flies may be fitly described as the most unclean of all the kinds of vermin which swarm about us and which we take as a matter of course, looking upon them as something inevitable and to be put up with as part of the price we pay for summer weather. This somewhat indifferent toleration of the fly is a very grievous blunder and one which should be corrected as speedily as possible.

Flies are born in filth and they luxuriate in it—they are maggots before they are flies—and filth forms the food by which they are kept alive. They carry filth about with them and they leave some behind them whenever and wherever they alight. After visiting the privy, the manure heap or some



other collection of decomposing rubbish they enter your houses and visit the pantry or it may be the breakfast table and buzzing about become attracted by the marmalade upon which they alight, or it may be the butter or sugar which they elect to sample or any other article of diet that may be more open to their incessant spirit of investigation. In any case they never leave it exactly as they find it—if indeed they carry off minute particles of food it is only after paying for it with something as unclean as it is undesirable, and it may even be of a very deadly nature. The food you eat may thus be infected by disease germs brought from the sick-room of someone ill with Enteric Fever or Consumption or some other form of infectious disease of an equally dangerous character. The sick-room is not the only source of disease germs for the sputum of the consumptive and the discharges of persons suffering from infectious disease are to be found in many varied places and the fly will feast upon such wherever existing and their feet will be laden with the horrible filth. Millions of germs, our unseen, but none the less deadly foes are carried about by flies in all directions and they may go direct to your food, to your drink, to the face and lips of the sleeping child or to some sore perchance upon your hands or head.

I have said enough, however, to show how dangerous flies are and can be, especially associated with privies and open middens and that the sooner the latter are abolished from the district the better will it be for the health of the community at large.

While on this subject, I may be permitted to warn all connected with food and food supplies to protect such from flies and especially milk, for when germs gain access to milk they proliferate and multiply at an enormous rate.



Every effort should be made to get rid of flies by keeping the surroundings scrupulously clean and by allowing no dirt to accumulate anywhere and especially decaying organic matter in the near vicinity of the house.

The inside of the house requires attention too, no dirt should be allowed to accumulate in corners, on ledges or behind doors and some disinfectant should be used occasionally before sweeping out and dusting the premises. Neither food nor the remains of food should be left lying about carelessly as these attract flies and indicate a slovenly and untidy house-keeper.

### THE PAIL SYSTEM.

There is no method so suitable as the pail closet for the sanitary and safe disposal of night soil in scattered country communities where there is no water carriage system nor sewer. But like any other method or system, it requires regular systematic and intelligent attention without which, in somewhat less degree, it can be as unpleasant, odouriferous and unhealthy as the common privy. To carry out the method effectively dry ashes or better still, dry earth is a requisite and this must be fully applied every time the closet is used.

Then no filth or refuse should be allowed to accumulate above one or two days before being removed and returned to the soil where it must be buried in the top layers of the soil, for the deeper layers of the soil are not so active nor so full of organisms and germs which act upon and decompose all organic matter exposed to their influence. The garden ground should be gone over and used up for this purpose according to some regular plan so that the same ground need not be employed over again too soon. It is remarkable, however, how quickly the process of nitrification takes place and is completed and how rapidly all evidence of buried manure disappears so that

the same piece of ground can be treated in this way several times a year if properly drained and not allowed to become waterlogged and sour.. The manurial value of night soil is very great and if properly used with discretion and understanding becomes a valuable asset to the occupiers of the cottage or the tiller of the garden.

There are now 208 closets on the pail system—which is an increase in the number of 58 upon 1910—in the district, but they are still too few in number and I should like to see them replace the privy whenever the occupier has some garden ground at his disposal.

### **WASTE WATER CLOSETS.**

There are now 304 of these throughout the district and they seem to be fairly popular and to work fairly satisfactorily upon the whole. Wherever there is an abundant water supply and a good sewerage system they may be considered safe and inoffensive, but they require to be looked after and kept clean for it is not very difficult to put them out of perfect working order.

Under no circumstances should they be situated under the same roof as the dwelling-house, nor in close contiguity to the walls of house. A clear open space of a few yards should in all cases separate them from any part of the dwelling. I learn that it is not so very uncommon to find children making them a place for playing in, but this should not be allowed under any circumstances, and all such premises should be kept rigorously closed and only opened when required. Another point I wish to emphasise is that far too many of them are built without any regard to sufficient light and I fear ventilation is not always as efficient as is desirable. The number 304 shows an increase of two only upon the number given for last year, so that no very numerous changes in this direction have taken place during 1911.

## FRESH WATER CLOSETS.

There has been quite a large increase in the number of fresh water closets during 1911, but this is mainly due to the fact that 40 new houses in Chatburn have been fitted with these conveniences. Wherever there is a good sewerage system and a plentiful supply of water there is perhaps no more convenient and comfortable method of sewage disposal than the F.W.C., but of course such water carriage system is very wasteful of good manure which ought to be returned to the soil in order to enrich the earth.

Fresh Water Closets, being frequently situated within the house, should be well lighted by a good sized window and well ventilated as it is quite possible for them to become somewhat offensive if not well looked after. The soil pipes should be carefully fitted and should have a full sized ventilation pipe carried well up to the ridge of the roof and clear of all windows and chimneys and should also be as free of bends as possible. When all suitable precautions are taken they are no doubt quite a safe and convenient institution

The accompanying list shows the number of closets and privies in the different parts of the district.

			Privy Middens	Fresh Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pails.
Aighton	..	..	127	140	..	20
Bailey	..	..	36	2	..	4
Chaigley	..	..	33	2	..	..
Bowland Little			19	..	..	..
Chatburn	..	..	100	79	62	41
Chipping	..	..	118	3	..	78
Downham		..	48	1	..	..
Leagram	..	..	15	1	..	..



		Privy Middens	Fresh Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pails
Little Mitton ..		13	2	..	..
Pendleton ..		56	2	..	..
Thornley .. ..		72	..	..	..
Twiston .. ..		18	..	..	..
Whalley .. ..		72	89	199	5
Wiswell .. ..		52	..	2	7
Barrow .. ..		25	..	41	50
Worston .. ..		26	5	..	3
		830	326	304	208

## NUISANCES.

There were 8 notices served for abatement of nuisances during 1911. Chipping 5, Wiswell 2 and Hurst Green 1. Verbal notices were given in 13 additional cases and all have been duly complied with

## HOUSE REFUSE.

Scavenging is carried out by the Sanitary Authority in Chatburn, Chipping and Wiswell and in the whole, is done quite satisfactorily. In Whalley this work is done by owners and occupiers indiscriminately with the result that it is done more or less inefficiently and at any hour of the day when it is done at all. The advantage derived by the Sanitary Authority doing the work is that some regulations can be made as to when the work is to be done and the most suitable time selected. In some other parts of the district the same mixed arrangement of owners and occupiers doing the work prevails. There are tips provided at Chipping, Chatburn, Barrow, Wiswell, Hurst Green and Whalley for the disposal of refuse.



## **POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

There is nothing I can add to what I have already said in former reports in regard to this matter. The Hodder and Ribble before being joined by the Calder are fairly pure and clean, but the Calder is neither pure nor clean and consequently the Ribble in the lower part of its course is not so clean and nice as higher up.

## **LODGING HOUSES.**

There are no registered lodging houses within the limits of the district.

## **INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.**

All the schools, with one or two exceptions, were inspected by me in 1911, and on the whole there was but little to take exception to with regard to any of them. I propose to refer in detail to one school only in this report.

### **THORNLEY SCHOOL.**

This school was inspected by me on 6th September, 1911. It is a well built substantial erection consisting of two rooms, a larger and smaller.

The large room is 32 by 18 by 18, and affords sufficient accommodation for the number of scholars. The windows are to the East and South. In this room on the occasion of my visit I found the desks were wrongly placed as regards incidence of light. In some instances the children when writing, drawing, or figuring were throwing their own shadow upon their work which, of course, is an unfavourable condition of things from several points of view. In the smaller room things were much better in this respect.

**Ventilation.** Sheringham valves were found in all windows and Boyle's ventilators in the roof. The ventilation is sufficient.

**Heating.** This is carried out by stoves in each room, and according to the register shown to me was apparently satisfactory.

The heating and ventilation is the same for both rooms. I must say that the condition of the rooms was not satisfactory with regard to cleanliness. The floor of both rooms was very dirty, rough and full of nails which protruded in places here and there.

**Cloakroom.** This room is common to both sexes but has two doors, that of the boys being commonly kept shut on account of draughts. The tiled flooring of this room is very much worn and uneven. The place looked dirty and improperly cared for. There are two wash basins in this room fitted with plugs from which the water does not drain away properly and which are very dirty. The top of the wooden cupboard in which the basins are fixed is very dirty also. The soap is kept under control by the head teacher in order to prevent waste. There is one towel only which is changed *once per week*, and at the time of my visit was decidedly dirty.

**Playground.** The playground is not paved but is full of rough stones and gravel, uneven with many little pits and hollows which must cause it to be very wet and dirty in rainy weather. The water taps in the playground are in a constant state of drip, and one drain was blocked up, causing the water to spread over the ground.

**Sanitation.** Privies are provided. There are two each for boys and girls. They are distinctly offensive as they had not been cleared out that year. The urinal for the boys is dark and dirty and is very much in need of lime-washing.

The outer steps of the girls' porch are much worn and dangerous.

## CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.

[ ] Wiswell School was closed for three weeks in the early part of the first quarter of the year on account of an epidemic of measles.

**Whalley School.** This school was closed for a fortnight before Easter on account of an epidemic of mumps in the course of which one child died.

**Chatburn School.** On account of a severe epidemic of measles, it was found advisable to close this school just before Christmas till after the holidays.

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, &c.

There are altogether 44 in the district of which I furnish a complete list on the Home Office Form 572, a copy of which accompanies this report for your guidance and information. During the year 64 inspections were made but practically nothing of any importance was found of which it was necessary to take any definite notice.

At the Whalley Abbey Printing Company's works at Barrow, near Whalley I found that one set of closets near the Block house were rather too much exposed to wind and rain from the South-West. To this the manager's attention was called and he promised to have the matter rectified. The closets near the gasometer were rather full and not very clean but I do not think this was the general state and besides the men themselves are much to blame for the untidy appearance.

There is nothing else requiring notice except that the closet at Kirk Mill Chair Factory, Chipping, was rather unpleasant at the date of my visit in July but this was perhaps in consequence of the very dry and hot weather prevailing at the time.



## FOOD INSPECTION.

Very little or nothing is done in the district in the way of food inspection, or at all events no diseased or unsound food is ever found. This is somewhat remarkable, for it is hardly conceivable that absolutely no tuberuculous or other diseased cattle are ever killed and disposed of for consumption within the very large area which this district covers. There are numerous diseases which affect the various animals which are used for food and which render it unfit for use and sometimes it is just possible that some such may be found within our borders, but I have no record of any seizures having been made. It might be advantageous to the ecommunity if some regular action was taken from time to time in the matter of inspection of meat and other food.

There is, perhaps, no article of food the quality of which varies so much as milk according to the method and kind of feeding and the condition of the shippon or cow sheds as to cleanliness and ventilation. Samples might be taken from widely separated parts of the district and the quality compared after examination by the analyst. It is now well known that tubercular disease can be transmitted to the human species by means of milk containing bacilli and that it is mostly young people who suffer and generally through the alimentary tract. This is because in all probability among young people a larger proportion of their diet is composed of milk than is the case amongst adults. Hence it is of the utmost importance that all milk should be as pure as possible in every respect and absolutely free from tubercle bacilli. There is a very common and very prevalent opinion held by many farmers that to keep cows under dark, close and hot vitiated atmospheric conditions will produce good milkers. This all the best veterinary authorities pronounce as sheer delusion and it is claimed that better results will be obtained under strict sanitary conditions

than in any other way. Good drainage, plenty of light, free ventilation, abundant water supply and sufficient cubic space are all desiderata of the utmost importance and will be of great advantage not only to the cattle themselves but also to all who may obtain some of their food supply from them. Tuberculosis I need hardly point out is closely associated with insanitary surroundings, dirt, bad ventilation, foul air and lack of sunlight. It is therefore only reasonable to infer that if the same sanitary measures which have been used and found effective in the past thirty years in the case of human beings were to be applied to cattle, bovine tuberculosis would soon become much reduced in the future. Cows to be healthy must live under healthy conditions and tuberculosis is a disease which must be combatted by healthy conditions. Every effort should be made to obtain milk in as cleanly a way as possible and no efforts should be spared to secure this result. Dirt in milk is not only disgusting but it is also capable of causing much mischief for milk is a medium in which most germs grow and multiply with great rapidity, consequently it is of the utmost importance that the consumer should endeavour to store and keep the supply in a satisfactory manner when it is obtained. There is much carelessness and indifference shown by many housewives as to the state of the vessel or utensil in which the milk is received and too often it is left standing about anywhere open to the invasion of flies and dust and in some instances to emanation of foul gases from middens and drains, or manure heaps. It is quite time the public gave more consideration and thought to the matter of food supply generally and more especially milk as it has such an important bearing on the rearing of infants and children, for it is in early years that the true foundation of a healthy life is laid.

Even if in consequence of the measures necessary to be taken for the improved and more cleanly collection and storage of milk there is increased cost—and farmers must be adequately

remunerated for providing us with the best—still it will prove more economical in the long run, for there is nothing so valuable as good health. Certainly where a farmer has to give up using the milk of a tuberculous cow or when it may be necessary to destroy a diseased animal some degree of compensation seems reasonable and if forthcoming would facilitate the ultimate disappearance of tuberculosis among cattle.

On the other hand the farmer must remember that he himself gains ultimately by getting rid of a diseased animal as the calves and other cows in the cow house are less likely to become infected and so safeguards the healthiness of his stock.

## **DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**

The regulations with respect to Dairies and Cowsheds and milkshops which have been issued by the "Council," and which came into force in 1900 are quite satisfactory in themselves and if acted up to in every instance would render the milk supply in and from the district all that could be desired but judging from some samples of milk I have seen and to which my attention has been called some of the regulations have not been very strictly adhered to. This is matter of regret because none of the regulations are very stringent nor such as to present any great difficulty in carrying them out.

I think it highly probable that sooner or later some government will bring in a very strict measure dealing with the matter of milk supply in which the sale of milk containing dirt or tubercule bacilli will be absolutely forbidden as being a menace to the public health. The Inspector of Nuisances reports there are 35 registered dairies and cowsheds in the district which is the same number as last year. He also reports that the cowsheds, milk cooling places and provender stores are all well limewashed during the summer months, when the cattle are out to grass.



The shippens on the whole are kept clean.

It is also reported that the water supply to most of the farms supplying milk is good, and that none of the farmers have made any complaint of being short of water. The Inspector of Nuisances also reports that he has not had any reason to suspect any of the cattle on these farms being affected with tuberculosis. It is stated on excellent authority that 25 to 30 per cent. of all the cows in this country are affected with tubercle so that we may consider ourselves exceptionally favourably situated when it is reported that there are no signs of tuberculosis among the cattle in the district.

### **SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**

The number of registered Slaughter Houses in the district is 7, which is one less than for 1910. They are distributed as follows : Chatburn has 1, Downham has 2, Chipping 1, Stonyhuist 1, and Whalley 2. All these places are reported as having been kept very clean and the garbage cleared away soon after slaughtering.

I cannot say that this corresponds with my experience in one instance at least. If reference is made to my report for the last quarter of the year 1911 it will be found that I there state with regard to the slaughter house at Chatburn, "There was certainly some ground for the complaint about the state of the slaughter house and premises adjoining, mainly due to the fact that there is no water laid on and that all water required for the cleaning of the place has to be carried by hand for some distance." More than that, garbage was lying openly exposed on a manure heap and at the time of my visit was being vigourously attacked by some fowls and a dog. I paid two successive visits with an interval of two days between and on each occasion found things were in a very similar condition. I do not think any slaughter house should be registered which

has not at command an abundant supply of water, for it is quite impossible to keep such an establishment clean without a full and free water supply.

### **NEW BUILDINGS.**

There have been during the year large additions to the number of dwelling-houses in Chatburn, as 40 new houses have been built.

The cotton factory at Chatburn is being very much enlarged and consequently must employ more hands. In the same village alterations and additions have been made to a shop in Downham Road.

At Clough Bank a new mason's shed has been erected, and a warehouse and office have been built.

In Whalley the new Bank is nearing completion. Co-operative stores and shops are in process of erection at Crow Park in the same village and they promise to be quite an imposing edifice when complete. A new villa residence of good large size with a fine garage is also being built in the Clitheroe Road, near to the village.

Six partially built cottages on the Asylum site and facing the Mytton Road await completion when work is resumed under the new contractor.

### **HOUSING, &c.**

Under the terms of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, of 1909 a very thorough inspection of the district was made during 1911, but the area of the district is so very great and the Eastern and Western parts being so very far apart owing to the wedge shaped portion of the West Riding of Yorkshire which intervenes between them that it has been quite impossible for me to complete the inspection of the whole district within the year. There still remains a large part of the district to be gone over before every house that comes within the scope of the Act appears in the Record of Inspection Book.

There appears to be sufficient house accommodation for the normal requirements of the artisans and labourers in the district, but it is more than probable that during the period of erection of the Whalley Asylum there may be an increased demand for lodging and no doubt many houses will be filled up to the verge of overcrowding in the immediate neighbourhood of that village. This will be more or less temporary and cannot last beyond a few years.

Many of the houses in and about Whalley are quite new and are built according to modern requirements. They are well lighted by good large windows which are made to open so that ample ventilation can be secured. There is ample open space so that there is no risk of the air becoming stagnant about them.

The number of houses inspected by me was 280 and many of these were so satisfactory as not to call for any intervention on the part of the Council. No doubt in nearly all the older properties minor defects were found, such as worn stair treads, broken flags in stone floors, some degree of dampness, plaster of walls or ceilings slightly broken and windows which would not open or were too small.. In some cases the yard was not well drained or the paving, if any, was defective.

The outhouses, which generally speaking, were privies, were not in a very good state of repair or were dark and poorly ventilated.

Among the more serious defects were a want of water supply even in the case of villages where neighbouring houses had water laid on ; damp, due in some cases to defective drainage, or to leaky roofs or walls. Stairs were worn and broken. Floors shakey and with numerous holes or cracks. Partitions and ceilings with broken and fallen plaster exposing laths, outside walls full of cracks and gables weak.



The windows in some houses are too small and not made to open so that both sunshine and fresh air were both denied admission.

Among the older properties, privies in the back yard were sometimes too close to the house, in others wet and dirty and more or less dilapidated. The midden sometimes had no roof or covering and in some cases where the ashpit was separate from the privy there was no covering roof to protect the contents from wet or rain.

In some few instances the timbers supporting ceilings and floors were in such a defective state as to make them dangerous.

A complete record has been kept of all houses inspected and this book has been laid before the Council from time to time. In addition a special list has been prepared of houses which require early attention and repair.

No notices requiring repairs or improvements to be made have been issued to landlords or owners by the Council during 1911, but this will be done at an early date in 1912. I am consequently unable to record here any results of action taken with a view to remedy defects.

In a few instances defects have been remedied merely as a result of inspection without any representation having been made to the owner. This has occurred in Chipping where old privies have been rebuilt and altered to the pail system, also where defective drains have been put right and a better arrangement made.

In Chatburn privies have been altered to water closets and in Whalley some cases of general disrepair of walls and roofs have been taken in hand and defects have been remedied. In other cases owners have written to me personally, asking

for information and expressing a readiness to fulfil any requirements, and yet again other owners have sought for particulars in the course of conversation and intimated their willingness to improve matters when they clearly understood what was necessary to be done.

I think the " Act " is likely to prove beneficial and lead to good results short of any action taken by the Council in the nature of compulsion.

The total number of houses inspected during the year was 280 and the number entered upon the special list was 80 and some of these have had their defects remedied in anticipation of notice.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

For purposes of comparison I am showing in tabulated form the birth-rates and death-rates in England and Wales for the year 1911.

### ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rates and Death rates in the year 1911 (Provisional Figures).

	Annual rates per 1,000 living.			Deaths under One year to 1,000 Births.
	Births.	Deaths.		
		Crude.	Corrected.	
England and Wales	24.4	14.6	14.6	130
77 great towns in- cluding London	25.6	15.5	16.4	140
136 smaller towns	23.4	13.8	14.4	133½
England & Wales less the 213 towns	23.4	13.9	13.1	118
London . . . . .	25.0	15.0	15.8	128

Before discussing the various Tables which accompany this report it is perhaps advisable for me to point out that certain changes and alterations have been made by the Local Government Borad, and now there are only four Tables and not five as in former years.

### **TABLE I.**

This gives the Vital Statistics of the whole district during 1911 and five previous years, and is arranged to show the gross births in the district and the births and deaths properly belonging to it with the corresponding rates. It also gives other particulars which will be referred to in the course of my remarks.

There are no Institutions within the district receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the district. There are numerous institutions outside the district which receive sick and infirm persons from the district, such as the Blackburn Infirmary and the Manchester Royal Infirmary and various Asylums in different places. Then there is the Clitheroe Workhouse

Within the area of the district there are 31,338 statute acres.

By the Census of 1911 the population of the district was found to be 6342 which is an increase of 497 upon the former figure. There are, therefore, 4.92 persons to the acre and as there are 1370 inhabited houses the average number of persons per house is 4.63.

I cannot say that there is any actual overcrowding but in a few instances the number occupying certain houses has been quite up to the limit.

The building of the Asylum near Whalley has tempted a few to take in lodgers and consequently to cramp the accommodation available for their families. This condition of affairs



is, of course, not permanent and can only last for a few years at the longest until the Asylum works are completed. In all probability it will be necessary, however, to keep all dwellings in the surrounding area under close observation so as to prevent undue overcrowding.

## **BIRTHS.**

The number of births registered during 1911 was as follows : Males, 58 ; Females, 65 ; Total, 123. This represents 10 less than for the preceding year, 1910, and is very nearly as low as in the year 1909, when the number was 120 only.

The average during the last five years was 128.40, so that there is a distinct falling off during 1911.

There were two illegitimate births during the year.

## **BIRTH RATE.**

The birth rate per 1000 of the population is 19.30 and is the lowest on record. It is even lower than for 1907 when it was 20.53 per 1000. I wish to call attention to this latter figure, for though the actual number of births in 1911 was three higher than in 1909 yet the birth-rate is lower by 1.23 per 1000 than was the case in 1909 and illustrates very clearly the advantage of obtaining rates per 1000. This is, of course, due to the fact that though the population has increased, the number of births has not increased in like proportion.

In my report for the year 1910, I say, referring to the birth rate, " This upward tendency is hopeful and satisfactory, more especially as it seems to be maintained." Unfortunately the hope has not been confirmed by statistics for the year under review. It, however, very distinctly bears out this further statement in my 1910 report that " The district does not stand very high in the matter of fecundity among the rural districts of England."

The country as a whole still shows a downward tendency and the district is suffering in this respect in common with the rest of England. The fact is very much to be deplored but apparently it must be endured as there seems no signs of a cure.

The birth rate of Rural England for 1911 is 23·40.

The birth rate for Clitheroe Rural District for 1911 is 19·30.

The average birth rate for the last 5 years was 21·96.

The steady decline in the birth rate throughout the country is a matter of serious import.

## DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during 1911 was 64

„ „ „ of deaths of non-residents „ 1

„ „ „ of deaths of Residents not registered  
in district was 12

„ „ „ Nett deaths belonging to district was 95

The average number of deaths for the last 5 years was 80·60

The number of males was 56 and of females 39.

It will be seen from the above that there were no fewer than 12 persons belonging to the district who died in Institutions of various kinds outside the limits of the district. It will also be noticed that the male deaths exceed the females by 19 which is an unusually high proportion.

## DEATH RATE.

The total number of deaths belonging to the district having been 95 during 1911, the death rate is therefore 14·98 per 1000 of the population.

Death rate for Rural England and Wales, 1911 . . . . 13·10

Average death rate for district for last 5 years . . . . . 14·58

Death rate for district for 1911 . . . . . 14·98

The above summary shows that not only is the death rate of the Rural District of Clitheroe higher than its own average for the last 5 years but also it is considerably higher than the rate for England and Wales in rural districts, the difference being very nearly 2 per 1000. Indeed, if the Table at the beginning be referred to it will be seen that the death rate is even higher than the rate for England and Wales, taken as a whole. This, I need hardly say, is distinctly unsatisfactory and yet it is very difficult to account for in any definite way. It is true that both Tuberculous disease and Cancer have been specially prevalent during 1911 and there has been a very high percentage of deaths from these diseases. Yet I am inclined to believe that both are to a certain extent accidental and temporary and not to be looked upon as permanent conditions.

### **INFANTILE MORTALITY.**

There were 13 deaths of infants under one year of age registered during 1911 and this is 4 more than the number for 1910. The average number of deaths for the last 5 years was 10.8, so that this year the number is distinctly high.

### **INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.**

This rate is calculated per 1000 of births and not per 1000 of the population.

Infantile Mortality for Rural England, 1911.....	118
Infantile Mortality average for 5 years in district.....	84.16
Infantile Mortality average for district, 1911 .....	105.70

From the above it will be seen that the Infantile Mortality rate for 1911 is much above the average for the last five years and is much higher than is at all desirable. At the same time it is considerably lower than the rate for Rural England. This is, it seems to me, the only redeeming feature in the vital statistics for the year and it is only so because it is less in some degree than the rate for the rural parts of England and Wales taken as a whole.



As compared with former years in the district it is high and is a movement in a retrograde direction. It is very much higher than the figure for 1910 when it was 67.67 only, when I was able to write "It is gratifying to be able to note that the infantile mortality has been steadily falling for the last five years." Now we meet with a distinct set back which is very disappointing, but from which I hope there will be a speedy recovery, as I find that a very large proportion of the infantile deaths are due to congenital conditions and not to defects in rearing.

There were no deaths under 1 year of age among illegitimate children.

## TABLE II.

This Table shows the cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year. It shows the number at all ages and is intended to show also the number notified according to certain age groups, but unfortunately I am unable to complete the age groups satisfactorily as in very few cases are the ages furnished by the medical practitioner notifying. It also shows the number of cases in each sub-division of the district, thus showing at a glance how the infective cases were distributed throughout the district.

There were, in all, 17 cases of infectious disease notified during 1911 and there 3 deaths, but as this Table does not make any reference to the matter of deaths I will discuss these later on.

There were two cases of Diphtheria, one occurring in the early part of the year and one in summer and both cases occurred in Whalley.

Then there were four cases of Erysipelas scattered throughout the year, and throughout the district, two of the cases occurring in Chipping sub-division and one each in Clitheroe and Whalley.

There were nine cases of Scarlet Fever of which number no fewer than eight occurred in the Chipping sub-division and one in Whalley, and not a single case occurred in Clitheroe.

The eight cases in the Chipping sub-division all occurred in the immediate neighbourhood of Stonyhurst, two of the cases being in the College itself. On this occasion there was no epidemic after the first incidence of the disease there was no further spread of infection. Yet it has to be borne in mind that six of the cases were living and being treated in houses of limited accommodation and past the doors of which the students from the College were trudging every day. This satisfactory result may well be contrasted with the state of affairs which prevailed in Stonyhurst College in 1910, when, in spite of all the means at its command the disease continued to spread, finally causing the closing of the school a month before the end of the term.

The one case at Whalley occurred right in the village where there seemed every probability of further mischief occurring, but there was not another case and the means used to prevent the spread of infection proved completely effective. This demonstrates that if proper precautions are taken and instructions are intelligently carried out there is not much risk of a widespread epidemic taking place. Of course there is no absolute guarantee of immunity from epidemic because everything depends upon an intelligent appreciation of the instructions given and the precautions adopted.

There was one case of Enteric Fever which unfortunately proved fatal. This occurred in the Whalley sub-division. The case could not be traced to any definite source. Very possibly our ubiquitous enemy the common house-fly may have played an important part in the appearance of the disease.

Then lastly, there was a case of Puerperal sepsis, and this too, occurred in the sub-division of Whalley.

On the whole, the district has been remarkably free from infectious disease during 1911, a matter for which we may be profoundly thankful as there are still numerous insanitary blots lying within our borders.

### **TABLE III.**

This Table shows the causes of and ages at death during the year 1911. It is a Table which requires to be referred to and discussed at some considerable length. There were 94 certified deaths at all ages and one death uncertified, which makes a total of 95. Of this number, 13 died under one year of age and the remainder at various ages up to the extreme of life.

Enteric Fever was accountable for one death and it was the only case of the kind which occurred in the district. There was no clue as to how the disease originated, for being a single sporadic case there were no general indications to help one to arrive at any definite conclusion and it is more than probable that the case arose in something outside the limits of the district, perhaps in some article of food partaken of while away from home or some food partaken of at home but obtained from some distant source. It is known, for example, that contaminated shell fish is capable of giving rise to the disease and it is quite common to see shell fish hawked about country districts, the actual source of which is unknown to the men selling them. Enteric Fever has declined very much in the last ten years and we learn from the Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Local Government Board that it has declined 68 per cent. between 1901 and 1910. This is very largely due to better water supply and improved sanitation generally.

### **DIPHTHERIA.**

This was the cause of one death. The origin or source of this disease must be left in obscurity also. Though there were two cases notified and both occurred in the same locality yet



there was an interval of three or four months between them and there was absolutely no connection of the one with the other. The mortality from Diphtheria is declining steadily and in the last ten years it has decreased by 50 per cent. This is in very large measure due to the increased use of diphtheria antitoxin, the immense value of which in the treatment of this one time dread disease is invaluable. A supply of diphtheria antitoxin, free of cost, is available for every medical practitioner in the Council's district in all cases where the expense is likely to prove a deterrent to its use.

## **INFLUENZA.**

This was the cause of one death. There are not now many fatal cases of Influenza as the type in latter years seems to have become much milder.

## **PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).**

This disease has been responsible for a very large number of cases, no less than 10 having died from this cause. This represents 10.53 per cent. of the deaths and is a very high proportion indeed. It also means a death rate of 1.58 per 1000 of the population which is considerably higher than the rate for 1910 when it was 1.19 per 1000. Then I remarked that such a figure "must be considered very high for such a district as this where at least half the population are leading an open air life." The unpleasant feature is that there is an increase instead of a decrease in numbers and further that it is so much higher than the rate for the country as a whole which was 1.12 per 1000 in 1909.

There has been a drop of 14 per cent. in the death rate from consumption throughout the country as a whole in the last ten years so that we may well hope that the recent tendency upwards in recent years in this district may experience a decline in succeeding years.

Under the new conditions which are likely to arise from the application of the "Housing Acts" and the "Regulations as to Tuberculosis 1911" there is every hope and prospect of great improvement taking place as regards the prevalence and severity of this fell disease. Then too, there are other factors in operation which will have a beneficial effect upon the health of the community in this respect. The sanitary and social conditions are gradually improving. The housing accommodation is better and ought still further to improve under the "Housing Act" as time goes on. Factories and Workshops are becoming more and more sanitary and the hygienic conditions of occupation are steadily improving. Better and more wholesome food is being used and no doubt Cookery classes are beginning to have a good and beneficial effect in the matter of preparation. This in turn means improved digestion and assimilation with better health generally which again means an increased power of resistance to infection by tubercle. Another matter of importance too, is that better food and more appetising meals from improved cooking will tend to keep men from spending so much time in the more or less stuffy atmosphere of the public house and cause a greater liking for wholesome exercise in the open air. There is no doubt that dark, dreary, ill-ventilated houses into which sunshine penetrates with difficulty if at all has an extremely prejudicial effect on health and so favours the invasion of tubercle. Permanent dampness too, in houses is a very great evil strongly calculated to decrease the power of the individual to resist attack and it is of the utmost importance that every effort should be made to eliminate this serious defect from all dwelling houses. Better accommodation implies more room and less crowding together while sleeping, which in turn means that ventilation is better in all probability as there is less necessity for any to be crowded up close to the window and therefore to object to its being opened and so admitting fresh air during the hours of sleep. Early recognition of the disease is verA

desirable, not only, because it is to the advantage of the patient that proper treatment should be adopted in the most curable stage, but also, in order that measures for the prevention of the spread of infection should be put in force as soon as possible. To this end I think the Council might with great advantage, make provision for sputa being examined for the tubercle bacillus in the case of patients of the working class free of any expense to the medical practitioner in charge. This would involve a very moderate outlay and would very probably prove to be of great value and facilitate the end in view. Of course I do not wish it to be supposed that the appearance of bacilli in the sputum occurs in the very earliest stage of the disease or that the disease cannot be diagnosed before that stage is reached but for the average practitioner it would confirm his diagnosis and enable him to notify the case without hesitation or delay.

#### **OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.**

Under this head come two deaths and this makes the total number of deaths from some form or other amount to 12 and this is equal to 12.70 per cent of all the deaths so that there is no question that tuberculous disease has taken very heavy toll of the community.

#### **CANCER.**

There were no fewer than nine deaths from this fearful disease during 1911. In my report for 1911—in which year there were six deaths—I made the following remarks “As far as I can trace back, this is the greatest number which has occurred in any one year. Cancer appears to be more common now than in former years, and yet it is quite probable its frequency is only apparent and not real.” In view of the above number of deaths in 1911 it almost appears as if the disease was actually on the increase. The number is equivalent to a percentage of 9.5 of deaths and presents a death rate of 1.42 per 1000 of population.



Cancer is a very hopeless disease and notwithstanding the blowing of many trumpets the various reputed cures sink into oblivion one by one.

### **BRONCHITIS.**

This disease was accountable for four deaths of which one occurred in infancy and two at the other extreme of life. It is a disease which is apt to be very fatal among the young and among the aged.

### **PNEUMONIA.**

This disease was also responsible for four deaths of which one occurred in infancy and the remaining three during the prime of life. It is a disease which is not peculiar to any one period of life but certainly it does appear to be more fatal in adolescence on to advanced middle life.

### **NEPHRITIS AND BRIGHT'S DISEASE.**

In this case also four deaths occurred and all occurred from middle life onwards.

### **PUERPERAL FEVER.**

This was the cause of one death. Such cases are very regrettable because they are included among the diseases which are avoidable and are always dependant upon want of cleanliness in some way or other.

### **OTHER ACCIDENTS AND DISEASES OF PREGNANCY AND PARTURITION.**

Under this heading there were two deaths, a condition of things which it is to be hoped is altogether exceptional and accidental.

Combining the two causes of death specified above there were three deaths connected with child-birth. As there were 123 births only this means a relatively very high per centage

of deaths to births and would represent 24.40 per 1000 of births which is enormously high. The rate per 1000 of births for the country as a whole was in 1909 3.69 for Puerperal sepsis and accidents of child-birth combined. In the case of this district for the year 1911 for every 41 births one mother died. This, it is needless to say, is simply appalling were it likely to be continued, but as I said above, it is not likely to recur in any one year perhaps ever again.

### **CONGENITAL DEBILITY AND MALFORMATION INCLUDING PREMATURE BIRTH.**

There were seven deaths under this heading and of course they are all deaths under one year of age and so swell the Infantile Mortality rate.

### **VIOLENT DEATHS.**

These were all inquest cases and were attributed to various causes.

### **ORGANIC HEART DISEASE.**

There were six deaths from this cause and were all in people well advanced in years for the most part.

### **SENILE DECAY.**

Under this head there were 14 deaths and this represents 14.80 per cent. of the total. This is the natural termination to life and the fact that only 15 out of a hundred attain to it seems to demonstrate how many pit-falls lie in our path and so determine life prematurely.

### **OTHER DEFINED DISEASES.**

Under this head there were 20 deaths during the year. These causes are all very various but none of them require any special mention except such as may be referred to under Table IV., which deals with the subject of Infantile Mortality.

Three of the deaths were under one year of age and eight were over 65 years of age. The remaining nine died at various ages between two years and 65.

#### DEATHS REPORTED AS UNKNOWN.

There were four deaths under this head and represent cases which it is very difficult to classify and which it is practically impossible to bring under any definite category such for example as is often given by a coroner's jury, "Natural causes," "Visitation of God," "Wasting," "Weak Heart," and "Dropsy."

#### TABLE IV.

This Table deals with Infant Mortality or deaths under one year of age.

There was a total of 13, none of which were of illegitimate children. Of this number five died within one week after birth and three more within a month so that no fewer than eight of the 13 did not live one month after birth. The remaining five dying at various periods within the year.

Premature Birth was the cause of death in six instances. Congenital malformation in one and atrophy, debility or marasmus in another.

Bronchitis was the cause of death in one case and pneumonia of another.

Convulsions accounted for two more and finally there was one which it was impossible to classify.

#### TABLE OR FORM No. 572 OF THE HOME OFFICE.

Finally there is the accompanying Form of the Home Office provided for the purpose of tabulating the results of inspections of factories, etc., within the district.



In a previous part of my Report I have already referred to the matter with which this form is concerned.

There has been very little about which to report and the form is merely a blank except for recording the number of inspections for the year and in giving a detailed list of the Registered Workshops.

There does not appear to be any other matters about which to call your attention.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. T. MACKLIN,

M.D., Clas. ; D.P.H., Camb. ; M.O.H.

